

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF TWENTY-SEVEN YOUNG GREEKS IN IOANNINA

REF: ATHENS-2262, 1619, 1088

1. SUMMARY. TRIAL IN NORTH IN WHICH TWENTY-SEVEN GREEKS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, ACCUSED OF ENGAGING IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST REGIME AND MEMBERSHIP IN NEW ILLEGAL COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION REPORTED ALL ATHENS PRESS JULY 11. VERDICT EXPECTED JULY 12. END SUMMARY.

2. TRIAL OF TWENTY-SEVEN PERSONS - TWENTY OF THEM STUDENTS, OTHERS YOUNG WORKERS - BEGAN IOANNINA COURT MARTIAL ON JULY 9, ACCORDING TO GREEK PRESS JULY 11. DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF SETTING UP ILLEGAL COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION CALLED "ARIS VELOUCHIOTIS" AND CONDUCTING SECRET MEETINGS TO CONSPIRE AGAINST GOG. DEFENDANTS ALLEGEDLY PAINTED ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS IN ATHENS AND CIRCULATED ANTI-REGIME PAMPHLETS IN IOANNINA, THESSALONIKI AND ATHENS. FOUR OF STUDENTS FURTHER ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN POLYTECHNION RIOTS LAST NOVEMBER.

3. ALL BUT ONE OF DEFENDANTS HAVE DENIED ANY COMMUNIST

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ASSOCIATIONS AND ONLY THREE HAVE ADMITTED MEMBERSHIP IN

VELOUCHIOTIS SOCIETY, THESE CLAIMING MEETINGS WERE FOR PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS ONLY. GENERAL DEFENSE ADMITTED INNOCENT DISCUSSIONS HELD ON CURRENT MOVIE AND LITERARY THEMES WITH ONLY POLITICAL NOTE BEING CONSENSUS THAT RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM BEST FOR GREECE. SOME OF ACCUSED APOLOGIZED FOR CIRCULATING LEAFLETES OF "DOUBTFUL CONTENTS" BUT DENIED ANY EXTREMIST CHARACTER TO THEIR PAMPHLETEERING.

4. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS ACCUSED ENGAGED IN THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES FROM SUMMER OF 1973 TO MAY, 1974, AND ALL ARRESTS TOOK PLACE THIS SPRING. GOG ALLEGES THAT THOMAS MANOPOULOS, 24, LAND SURVEYOR, WAS BRAINS BEHIND ORGANIZATION AND DATE OF HIS ARREST IS ONLY ONE OMITTED IN POLICE RECORDS GIVEN TO PRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, WHICH APPEAR TO BE BASED ON GOG HANDOUTS, ONLY WITNESSES AGAINST ACCUSED WERE POLICE OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT: THIS TRIAL IS FIRST IN WHICH GOG HAS NOT TIED STUDENT LEFTIST ACTIVITIES EITHER TO COMMUNIST YOUTH OF GREECE (KNE) OR ANTI-EEFEE COMMITTEE. ALSO THIS IS FIRST REFERENCE TO GROUP NAMED AFTER VELOUCHIOTIS WHO WAS CONTROVERSIAL COMMUNIST RESISTANCE FIGHTER KILLED IN 1945. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE GOG ALSO DID NOT ANNOUNCE ARREST OF THESE TWENTY-SEVEN DURING SPRING. ON BASIS OF PRESS STORIES PROSECUTION SEEMS TO BE DRAMATIZING CASE BEYOND SUBSTANCE OF EVIDENCE AND CHOICE OF IOANNINA FOR TRIAL IS NOVEL WITH ALL PREVIOUS TRIALS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN PIRAEUS, ATHENS, THESSALONIKI.
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